FEBRUARY 5TH IN COORDINATION WITH INTERNATIONAL WEEK AT UC IRVINE

THE GRAND MASTER, (WONG KAR WAI, 2013)

Written and directed by Wong Kar Wai, this epic drama tells the story of Man, the Grand Master, whose life is shaped by the chaos of the violence and tumult of Chinese history in the twentieth century. A martial arts drama and a biopic, the film deals with the foundational story of the Grand Master, played by Tony Leung in relationships to his adversary, Gong-Bei (played by Zhang Ziyi).

McCormick Screening Room
6 pm Dinner and Reception
7 pm Screening

MINI CHINESE FILM FESTIVAL OPENING NIGHT | FEBRUARY 8

LAST TRAIN HOME, (FAN LIXIN, 2009)

Each year at Chinese New Years, 130 million migrant workers make the often arduous journey home from coastal cities where they work in Chinese factories. The largest human migration on the planet has rarely been seen in such an intimate way. The mini-Chinese Film Festival opens with this extraordinary documentary, following the journey of one such family in the first decade of the millennium, when China became the factory to the world.

McCormick Screening Room
6 pm Dinner and Reception
7 pm Screening

MINI CHINESE FILM FESTIVAL | FEBRUARY 9

LONG DAY’S JOURNEY INTO NIGHT, (BI GAN, 2018)

Bi Gan’s extraordinary film describes one man’s journey home, after the death of his father. In his hometown, he searches for a woman he once loved. Capturing the loneliness of contemporary China and the structure and feeling of dreaming, the film features a 59 minute single take shot in 3D.

McCormick Screening Room
Reception at 6 pm
Screening at 7 pm

MINI CHINESE FILM FESTIVAL | FEBRUARY 10

THE GREAT BUDDHA, (HUANG HSIN-YAO, 2017)

A black comedy and dark social satire set in black and white, through film deals with the most marginal people of Taiwanese society. A security guard and his buddy have seen surveillance footage recorded by his boss’s in car camera and trouble lies ahead for both of them in ways anyone at first like a light-hearted romp. The film also deals with the repressive nature of elites and rich people hoping to launder their sins through pseudobuddhist charities.

McCormick Screening Room
Reception at 6 pm
Screening at 7 pm

MARCH 10

A SIMPLE WEDDING, (SARAH ZANDIEH, 2018)

This delightful romantic comedy upsets the norm for our times: the film deals with the travels of an idealistic American heroine, her devotion to the wrong kind of man, her immigrant parents attempting to set her up with the right kind of man, and finally, her romance with a man who her family struggles to understand and accept.

McCormick Screening Room
Reception at 6 pm
Screening at 7 pm

APRIL 15

THE CHAMBERMAID/LA CAMARISTA, (LILA AVILES, 2018)

This extraordinary film is set entirely in one of the most luxurious hotels in Mexico City and follows the story of a young woman who works as a chambermaid there. Devoted, conscientious and filled with intelligence and compassion. Eva performs her duties with intensity and dedication. She takes continuing education classes after her punching work schedule in the hopes of improving her situation. She takes on the phone to a child she rarely sees; the conclusion of the film is luminously beautiful as we follow Eva’s carefully observed voyage to self-knowledge.

Location TBA
Reception at 6 pm
Screening at 7 pm

MAY 14

BURNING, (LEE CHANG-DONG, 2018)

This film is based on a story by Haruki Murakami and follows the story of a directionless man Jong-su who meets a mysterious young woman Hae-mi, who asks him to watch her cat when she goes on a trip. When she returns, she introduces Jong-su to Ben, a charismatic and wealthy character played by Steven Yeun, star of The Walking Dead. A psychological thriller and urban mystery, the film marries New Wave Korean cinema with the sensibility of Murakami’s observations of dislocation and yearning in the Asian metropolises.

Location TBA
Reception at 6 pm
Screening at 7 pm